

Sharing the Hope of Jesus



David Wolfe was rapidly running out of options. From the age of 15, he bounced in and out of jail. By the time he was 40, he had given up any hope of breaking the decades-long cycle of incarceration.

David was desperate to make a change in his life. But with eight kids to care for — and the pressing need for quick cash to feed his family — his “best” source of income was selling drugs and cigarettes on neighborhood street corners.

The opportunity for change came in an unexpected way: when court-ordered community service placed him at New St. Jude Church of God in Christ, near Chicago’s Oak Park neighborhood. There he found options ... if he was willing to take them.

As he watched the people of New St. Jude, David discovered there was a different way to live. The church helped him find a job, and he began to provide for his family — legally.

At the invitation of the church, David brought his children to a Cru® Inner City PowerPack® outreach. PowerPacks® are brightly colored backpacks loaded with school supplies and gospel literature ...



provided for inner-city children just in time for back-to-school.

“New St. Jude had been partnering with Cru on a variety of outreaches for at least a decade,” said

Shantellas Veal, a volunteer with the church. Shantellas said the giveaways are important because they open a pathway to share God’s Word. “People pay attention more,” Shantellas said. “They’re more eager

and open to listen when their needs are also being met.”

The Wolfe family was listening and fully engaged in the PowerPack event. “The children were so happy

The message of God’s love resonated with David and several of his older children — and they accepted Christ as their Savior!

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because we were playing games with them about the Bible,” Shantellas said. The gift of the PowerPacks was like icing on the cake!

Along with the games, church volunteers addressed the spiritual needs of their guests by sharing the gospel during one-on-one breakout sessions. The message of God’s love resonated with David and several of his older children — and they all accepted Christ as their Savior.

Not long after the outreach, David found a home for his family and moved them to another area of Illinois, but not before stopping by New St. Jude one last time.



“He just came in and thanked us, saying if it wasn’t for us, he never would have turned his life around,” Shantellas said. “He would probably still be on the street selling drugs.”

This is the beautiful life change you help make possible through your compassionate support of Cru serving the inner city, sharing the hope of Jesus. We’re so grateful for your partnership!

Life-Changing Connections Backpacks and Prayer!



Every year, PassionLife Church in Atlanta hosts its “Back to School Bash” in a park central to the McDonough Housing Authority and the surrounding neighborhood. Hundreds of people gather for free food and fun, including a delicious barbecue meal, games, a time of worship and prayer together and, of course, the main attraction ...

PowerPacks® provided by the inner-city ministry of Cru® — brand-new backpacks filled with essential school supplies, a colorful bead bracelet that symbolizes the gospel story, and literature about Jesus.

But COVID-19 forced the congregation to reinvent the annual bash. The end result was “Backpack and Prayer” — a door-to-door, mask-on outreach that allowed volunteers to get more heart-to-heart time with their neighbors.



“Going door to door, we passed out the PowerPacks, checked on families, and prayed for each household individually,” said Joy Bryans of PassionLife.

“There were so many families grateful to see us and to receive prayer and school supplies,” Joy said. “We were able to reconnect with some families from last year and got to meet new ones. This was a great way to start a relationship with new families.”

One woman, living with her four great-grandchildren, was especially welcoming.

“All four children gathered and listened to the story of the gospel bracelet,” Joy said. “Jesus’s presence was powerful in that moment, and it was clear that His Word was being planted into young souls. We prayed for the family before we left. It was a really special moment of connection!”